G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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NO. 429.

## WASHINGTON, D. C. fortune, or fate, which you will, thought fit to

Palar H. Antron. in the Clerk's Office of the District Coart for the Southern District of New York.]

FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

The Trial.

nd so remarkable, or in his character

ing the six weeks which intervened be

ding of the Lancaster assizes, there

at tribulation in the castle of Hawks-

and it was known that Sir Yvo de Taille-

night and day, booted and spurred, through

ployed in the research, what

exact point and period was forgotten.

At the same time, orders were issued to Ken-

ng in Eadwulf, under assurance of par

fier all the rest had resigned the enter

That d'Oilly would forthwith claim trial by

y bad but dauntless man.

of battle, none might doubt, who knew

at Sir Yvo should appoint his young

s champion to do battle for the judg-

-for they were irrevocably con

love, in the superiority of the be

spurs of gold, to which he so pas-

ed, experienced, and all-practiced

d. But the clear-headed vete-

ter and antecedents of that despe-

county of York.

from York, the present abode of

th Justiciary : flying posts were coming and

Sir Foulke d'Oilly, and the day appointed

What, is Antonio here ?

SHERWOOD FOREST, WAGER BY BATTLE.

A Tale of Saxon Slavery in the Twelfth Century. BY HENRY WILLIAM HERBERT. CHAP. XX.

heavily on the hard-frozen ground.

A dislocated shoulder was the conadversary, an inhuman wretch.

Merchant of Venice.

A dislocated shoulder was the consequence; and, though it was speedily reduced, and no ill consequences followed, the surgeons declared that it was impossible that the beight should There is nothing in all the reign of that wise, derate, and able prince, as viewed according circumstances of his position and the support his armor, or wield a sword, within two months; and thus, perforce, Guendolen had her way; and it was decided that Aradas should be ce of his era, the Second Henry of orthy, as his efforts to establish a peradmitted to the perilous distinction of main-

taining the charge, in the wager of battle.

Strange times! when to be permitted to engage in a conflict, in which there was no alteret system both of judiciary power and of jus-throughout England. In these efforts he than mediately succeeded; and, although e corruptions continued to exist, and some ative but victory, or infamy and death, was esteemed a favor, and was sought for, as a boon, not by strong men and soldiers only, but by delicate and gentle girls, in behalf of their betrothed lovers, as a mode of winning los on alfeasance to occur, owing in me degree to the King's own avaricious temnt and willingness to commute punishand perhaps, at times, even prosecutions, cuniary fines, justice was not for many earth, and glory everlasting in the heavens.

Yet so it was; and when it was told to Guer four hundred years afterward, in of the eighth monarch of the same dreadful enterprise, a blush, indeed, mantled name, than in the latter portion of to her cheek, and a thrill ran through all her not four hundred years afterward, in ion of the eighth monarch of the same quivering frame, and an unbidden tear trembled her beautiful clear eye; but the blush, and Glanville, was High Justiciary of the thrill, and the tear, were of pride and exbeside holding the especial duty of ing justice, at the head of five others, citement, not of fear or compassion; and the lady never slept sounder or more sweetly than it courts of all the counties north of on that eventful night, when she learned that, Trent; and he has left it on record, "that beyond a peradventure, her true love would be was not now in the King's Court one sleeping, within ten little days, under a bloody and dishonorable sod, or living, the winner who dared swerve from the path of juspronounce an opinion inconsistent those golden spurs and of her own peerless beauties.

g the six weeks which intervened be-liberation of Kenric from the arrest simple and fegvent faith in those days, with an infinitely larger amount of coarse and open wickedness, violence, and vice, than, perhaps, ever prevailed in any other age. And while the moral restraint on men's conduct and ac has in constant correspondence with the tions, arising from a sense of future responsi bility and retribution, was vastly inferior to what now exists, owing to the open sale of indulgences, absolutions, and dispensations, and and chaplain was buried up to the eyes of parchments and genealogies; and, to plete the mystery, Clarencieux, king at came down to the castle, accompanied pursuivant, loaded with down and the present interference of divine justice in the affairs of men, was almost universal.

Infidelity in those days was almost universal.

anknown; and an atheist, materialist, or any phase of what we now call a free-thinker, would of heralds, a fortnight before the have been regarded with greater wonder than sive day, and tarried at the castle until the time came, no one knowing especially, save Sir Yvo, his daughter, Aradas de Ratcliffe, and the much to say, that there were not in that day gen in England, who did not believe in the real efficacy of the ordeals, whether by water, fire, or battle, in discovering the truth, or one in a thousand who would not be half dethat time, to hold the proceedings and their feated, before entering the lists, by the belief ause in perfect secresy, no such reason exists that God was fighting against him, or strengthw; and it may be stated, that, the object g no other than to bring Sir Foulke d'Oilly ened to victory by the confidence that his cause

was just.

stice for the murder of Sir Philip de Mor-One of these one men in a thousand it was, e, it was necessary to be prepared at every however, about to be the fortune of Aradas de Ratcliffe to encounter, in the person of Sir Foulke d'Oilly; but this he neither knew, no no prosecutor could put in his charge for would have thought of twice, had he known it. However hardened the heart of his adversary until he should have proved himself be of the blood of the deceased. And this was now the object of Sir Yvo to do, there might be by the petrifying effects of habitual always been a traditionary belief in a ice, however dulled his conscience by impunity and arrogance and self-relying contumacy, his own was so strongly panoplied in conscious honesty, so bucklered by confidence in his own length, in the middle of the month of Ocgood cause, so puissant by faith in God, that a proclamation was issued, in the name e no more feared what the might of that bad King, offering a free pardon for all other man could do against him, than he doubted th creed of Christ and his holy Apostles. a of treason, and five hundred marks any freeman, or freedom to any serf.

Nor less was the undoubting assurance being a principal in the deed, should the lady of his love, in whom, to her faith in divine justice, to her absolute conviction of r before the court of assize at Lancaster, d'Oilly's damning guilt, was added that over weening confidence in her lover's absolute suon of the murderer or murderers of the Sir Philip de Morville, of Waltheofstow, periority, not only to all other men in general but to every other man individually, which was common to love-sick ladies in those days of romance and chivalry.

But we must not anticipate, nor indeed is and all his associate foresters and keepers, there cause to do so, for the days flew; until, he might be found in any quarter; and after leaving Kendal Castle, the old fortalice of were offered to stimulate the men to Yvo de Taillebois, who, coming in with the Conqueror, had wedded the sister of the Earls But in vain. The foresters pushed way into the deepest and wildest recesses Morcar and Edwin, whence they took their de-Cumbrian wilderness, at the risk of parture as so much nearer to their destination smart conflicts with the outlaws of that and travelling four pleasant winter days roun ad desolate region, who fancied that they the head of Morecambe bay, they entered the old spassing on their own savage haunts. town of Lancaster. Sir Yvo de Taillehois was borne in a horse-litter, in consequence of his accident, at the head of a dozen knights, his vassals, all armed cap-a-pie; and a hundred spears of men-at-arms followed, with thrice as and, relying on his Saxon origin and nany of the already famous Kendal archers escorting a long train of litters, conveying the

reded in interesting his auditors in behalf and that of his brother; but onger array of sumpter mules and pack horses The town was already crowded; but for a than the others, could find any party so distinguished as that of Sir Yvo de fugitive, and he began almost to it certain that the unhappy Eadwulf Taillebois, High Sheriff of the Northwestern counties, and chief local officer of the crown of the weather. He too, at last, returned apartments were prepared in the castle, adjoining those of the high justiciary and the itiner spairing of ever seeing the unhappy int, or, as we should now call them, circuit judges; while his train easily found quarters some among the garrison of which they formed ontest was going on in the castle, between n and Aradas on the one hand, and a part, as of right, and the rest in the vicinity

lady and her female attendants, and a yet

e Taillehois on the other. For it had overed, by the heralds, that there did of the castle. At an early hour in the morning, preceded by trumpets and javelin men, clad in all the od-connection between the nagnificence of scarlet and ermine, emblemat ic of judicial purity, but unencumbered by the st Sir Foulke d'Oilly, on the grounds of hideous perukes of horse hair which later ages have devised for the disfigurement of forensic dignitaries, the high justiciary, Ranulf de Glanville, followed by his five associate judges, probe found; and, if he should, then on his ceeded to the superb oak-wainscoted and oak groined hall, in which it was used to hold the

ittings of "the King's court," at that time the

highest tribunal in the realm.

This noble apartment, which was above a hundred feet in length by half that width, and measured sixty feet from the floor to the spring of the open arches, independent of the octagor what, between their real faith in the nearly a ton of charcoal, in a superb brazier this cause; and the zealous trust, of of carved bronze, was crowded from the floor to the light, flying galleries, with all the flower of the Northern counties, ladies as well as knights and nobles, attracted by one of those untraceaglowing and impulsive valor-that uld surely beat the traitor down. ble but ubiquitous rumors, which so often precede remarkable events, to the effect that some thing of more than ordinary moment was like ly to occur at the present assize. Among this ser eye. He knew Sir Foulke d'Oilly oble assemblage, all of whom rose to the feet, with a heavy rustle of furred and embroidonly brave at all times, and brave the bravest, but a champion, such as ered robes, and a suppressed murmur of ap plause, as the judges entered, conspicuous of the right-hand side of the nave was Sir Foulk ere few, and to be beaten only by a He knew him also desperate, and d'Oilly, attended by two or three barons and

bannerets of his immediate train, and not less the felon knight, unless the sense uld paralyze his heart, or the visithan twenty knights, who held fiefs under him. nent of God be interposed in the heat What, however, was the astonishment of the assembly, when, after the guard of pensioners a thing in those days scarcely to be in royal livery, armed with halberts, which fol-lowed the judges, Clarencieux, king-at-arms, in his magnificent costume, supported by six pur-suivants, in their tabards, with trumpets, made his appearance in the nave, and then two per--would prove no easy bargain in the how highly soever he might estiyoung esquire's courage and prowmost solemn and awful of appeals to the Almighty on his judgment-seat, was any proper occasion for the striving after spurs of gold, or aiming at the honors of knighthood.

So the lovers were obligated and the striving after spurs of gold, or aiming at the honors of knighthood. place of appellant in the lists; and So the lovers were obliged to decline into hopes of some indefinite future chance; and did decline into despondent and listless apathy, until, two days only before that appointed for the departure of the company into Lancashire,

## It was remarked afterward, though at the

in the custody of the sheriff of the county. He concluded by appointing Geoffrey Fitz Peter and William of Tichborne, two sergeants, learned in the law, as his counsel.

The sheriff of the county was then called into court, to produce the body of the person at issue, and Kenric was placed at the bar, his bondsmen surrendering him to take his trial. Sir Yvo de Taillebois then stated the prelim-

nary proceedings, the arrest of Kenric by sei- erate consideration, and on witnessing further zure, his purchasing a writ de libertate proban- developments, they will find that the new moveda; and that, whereas he, the sheriff, might not ment is not what they subscribed for. The try that question in his court, it was now brought ap before the Eyre of justices for trial. Kenric was then called upon to plead, which edid, by claiming to be a freeman, and desihe did, by claiming to be a freeman, and desi-

jury of his countrymen. The sheriff was thereupon commanded to evil of Slavery, and the monstrous strides of empannel a jury; and this was speedily accom-plished, twelve men being selected and sworn, six of whom were belted knights, two esquires of Norman birth, and four Saxon Franklins, as with," while they watch their chance to strike hey were now termed, who would have been hanes under their ancient dynasty, all free and lawful men, and sufficient to form a jury.

Then, the defendant in the suit being a poor nan, and of no substance, counsel, skilled in as de Curthose, and Matthew Gourlay, that he might have fair show of justice; and so the triSam Houston's late address at Boston, and spurn him as a Presidential candidate. he law, were assigned him by the court, Thom-

person at the bar to be a serf, known as " Eadwulf the Red," who has escaped from the manor of his lord at Waltheofstow, in Sherwood Forwith a cross bolt, on that same day, in the forest between Turgoland and Bolterstone; and afterward murdered the bailiff of the manor of thed by comparison with corresponding ons, and the arbalast to which they belong, ound in the possession of the prisoner, when taken at Kentmere in Westmoreland; that he had been hunted hot-foot, with bloodhounds, brough the forest, and across the moors to the Lancaster sands, when he had escaped only by the aid of the fatal and furious tide which had overwhelmed the pursuing horsemen; that he had been seen to land on the shore of West-moreland, by a party of the pursuers, who had escaped the flood tide by skirting the coast ne, and had been traced, foot by foot, by report of the natives of the country, who had neard of the arrival of a fugitive serf in the neighborhood, until he was captured in a cottage beside Kentmere, on the tenth day of Oc-

he called Sir Foulke d'Oilly.

He, being sworn, testified that he knew, and and often seen, his serf "Eadwulf the Red," on nis manor of Waltheofstow, and fully believed he person at the bar to be the man in question. He had joined the pursuers of the fugi-tive on the day after the catastrophe of the sands, had been engaged in tracing him to the cottage on Kentmere, and fully believed the person captured to be the same who was traced pward from the sands. Positively identified and swore to the person at the bar, as the man captured on the tenth day of October, and to he crossbow and bolts produced in court, and

branded with the name "Kenric," as taken in us possession. Being cross-examined, he could not swear ositively to any personal recollection of the eatures of "Eadwulf the Red," or that the person at the bar was the man, or resembled the man, in question. Believed him to be the man Eadwulf, because it was the general impression

of his people that he was so. Thomas de Curthose said: "This, my Lords. s mere hearsay, and stands for nought." And Sir Ranulf de Glanville bowed his head and replied, "Merely for nought."

Then Sir Foulke d'Oilly, being asked how, when he assumed this person's name to be Eadwulf, he ascribed to him the ownership of weapons stamped "Kenric," he replied, that Kenric" was a name prepared aforehand, to evert suspicion, and assumed by Eadwulf, so to

had assumed such other name, or that the name "Kenric" had ever been assumed by one truly named "Eadwulf," he replied, that 'it was probable."

Thomas de Curthose said, "that is mere conecture. And, again, the justiciary assented.

REMAINDER OF CHAP. XX IN OUR NEXT. For the National Era.

SUBMISSION. BY E. JESSUP EAMES.

The rapture of the Human Love has vanished-The memory of the Past will not be banished But in its morning brightness stands before her Clear and distinct, and vain regrets sweep o'er her Till she is fain to shed such pitying tears As Sorrow weeps through many mortal years But God was merciful; for she could pray,

And at his feet her human weakness cast! Albeit a great grief shadowed her alway. Her restless heart found Heaven's deep peace at last Take thus thy lot upon thee, suffering friend, Enduring patiently until the end.

ANSWER TO CHARADE.

To the Editor of the National Era: If you have no better solution of the Charade ublished in the Era of March 1, 1855, the folowing is at your service.

The rising sun, from his effulgent beams, Pours warmth and radiance on the world below The "sounding Sea" with answering beauty gleams And all its sparkling waves resound and glow, Beneath that azure dome, the o'erarching sky, Whose "lofty pillars" reach to worlds on high.

When, in their turn, "the evening shades prevail," And the fair moon comes forth serenely bright, The dimpling waves with silvery foam are pale, And all their crests are tipped with crystal light Attracted by their queen's resistless force,

Man "looked on Eden, in her vernal prime"-A few short years, his bright, luxurious home; Man "watches now the stars of every clime," Man-the Historian, Artist. Poet, Sage-Records the deeds of every passing age.

The hardy Seaman, through the stormy day, Wresties with furious waves, by fierce winds driven As night draws near, the tempest dies away, And opens to his view a glimpse of heaven. He hails the beacon light that shines afar, And thanks the Almighty for the guiding star. Boston, March 12, 1855.

## Beople's Department.

It was remarked afterward, though at the time no one noticed it, none suspecting the champiouship by the misstep of a stumbling palfrey.

After having ridden all day long on a stout, sure-footed obt, which he had backed for ten years, without knowing him to make a solitary blunder, marking trees for felling, and laying out new plantations with his foresters, Sir Yvo was wending his way toward the castle gates, across the great home park, when, a small blind ditch crossing his path, he put the pony at it in a canter.

Startled by some deer, which rose up suddenly out of the long fern, which grew thick among the oak trees, the pony shyed, set his forefeet in the middle of the drain, and came down on his head, throwing his heavy rider heavily on the hard-frozen ground.

It was remarked afterward, though at the time no one noticed it, none suspecting the cause, that when the heralds and pomp, indicating the presence of a court of chivalry made their appearance, the face of Sir Foulke d'Oilly, flushed fiery red for a moment, and then turned white as ashes, even to the lips; and that he trembled so violently, that he was compelled to sit down, while all the rest were standing.

During the first three days of the assize, though many causes were tried of great local and individual interest, nothing occurred to satisfy the secret and eager anticipations of the excited audience, nothing to account for the unasual combination of civil and military powers on the judicial bench; and though all mannon the oak trees, the pony shyed, set his forefeet in the middle of the drain, and came down on his head, throwing his heavy rider the first three days of the assize, the with the secret tried of great local and individual interest, nothing occurred to satisfy the secret and eager anticipations of the excited audience, nothing to account for the unasual combination of civil and military powers and the provided audience, nothing to account to take the oath of citizenship, and vote, and thus be soon prepared to wield the elective fr who, presently appearing, stated that he was there, in pursuance of the king's order, to prosecute his claim to the possession of one Eadwulf the Red, aliay Kenric, a fugitive villeyn, who had fled from his manor of Waltheofstow, ment, but, if let alone, will soon vote right; and the foreigner as soon as the other—for the within the precincts of Sherwood Forest, against his, Sir Foulke d'Oilly's, will; and who was now love of Liberty is implanted in the bosom of

THEY WILL BE TRUE.

-. Mass., Feb. 28, 1855. I have not joined the Know Nothings, as some of my Free Democratic brethren have done; and I cannot but think that, after delibslaveholders and their minions often seem to be divided, when they are really agreed; and ring liberty to prove the same before God and it, none of them care a fig about it, except as it may serve to turn attention from the giant the Slave Power. They will agree that the new movement shall have free course, and will their harpoon into the vitals of Freedom.

I am in daily conversation with Free Demo-crats who have joined the Know Nothings, and I am glad to hear them say, that in no event will they forsake Freedom, or cease from their opposition to the encroachments of the Slave

Then Geoffrey Fitz Peter rose and opened the case by stating that they should prove the cupation of the White House, he has made a mistake in opening his mouth as he did in Boston. His chance would have been better if he had kept mum, as Old Zach did, and let est, against his lord's will, on the thirteenth day of July last passed; that he had killed a deer, their breeches pockets. Yours,

NO PROSCRIPTION. -, Mass., Feb. 26, 1855. Waltheofstow, as aforesaid, with a similar weapon, at or near the same place, which do so until you are false to Freedom. They can not do so consistently until they become false to that sacred cause. I will believe that many who have thus struck a blow at the existence of the Era, have done the thing without a calm and deliberate judgment; for they must see and sudden movement, they cannot depend upon the Organ, to fight the battles of Freedom in the heart of the nation. I deem it the duty of every friend of Freedom to support the Era, if he has the ability, however on other points he may dissent from the editor. I do not agree with you in all things, neither do I ober of this present year. And to prove this, I must have both papers; I cannot do without them. I must not fail to give them my patronage. I must sustain them for Freedom's

You are told by your friends, that you must suffer the fate of all reformers, and "take joyfully the spoiling of your goods;" but let them see to it that, while others withdraw support, they do not withhold it; that they hold up your hands in this day of rebuke and blasphe

my. Faithfully, yours, BRIEFLY PORTRAYED.

President Blanchard, of Galesburgh College, Illinois, writes to us: The Know Nothing movement is a medley

of absurdity, contradiction, and sin. It is all surd to give to a grave political and proscriptive party a title, such as would be select merriment by a court fool or buffoon. It is a contradiction of ideas, at least, to pretend protection of American institutions by a sacrifice of American principles, and secrecy in matters of common concernment is not an American principle. It is an original element of Jesuitism; but the men who founded our institutions commenced by an open appeal to the world. It is sin, also; for concealing their counsels from their fellow-citizens, while they are seeking to possess and exercise the civil administration over us, and thus govern our persons and tax our property, is a fraud upon us. It is prac-ticing the policy of war in time of peace, and treating their fellow-citizens who are not in their secrets, as one opposing army treats another. But these thoughts are familiar to you. I intended merely to write a private note, to bid you God speed, and to assure you that multi-tudes look on with admiration, if they do not help you in your cool and quiet sacrifices, for the principles which really shelter us all. Praying and hoping that this attempt to mislead American philanthropy and patriotism from its opposition to its chief and most dangerous anonist, the slave power, I heartily pray God to bless you and yours. I remain your old J. BLANCHARD.

HOW THE LECTURE WAS RECEIVED.

MARLBORO', MASS., Feb. 24, 1856. We have just had a lecture from Gen. Houson, on Slavery, and a more miserable apology any man of his standing, not even Dr. Adams himself. If the General had been as suddenly test. If he had taken the ground of no more slave States or Territory, and been in favor of restoring the Missouri Compromise, with the opposition he made last winter to its passage and the defence of the New England clergy, on he made last winter to its passage, think his chance was best (as yet) to get the nomination in '56. But I think the Presidency will not be "thrust upon" him. He his anxious for them, the slaves, to become religious; but not long ago, we read of a woman being sent to prison for learning the slaves to read sent to prison for learning the slaves to read the Bible. I have not time to say more, only we like to have such lectures as the General's it's worth more to the Anti-Slavery cause than half a dozen from other sources.

FROM KENTUCKY SCAFFOLD CANE POST OFFICE, Rockeastle Co., Kentucky.

I wish to say that I have examined carefully everything both pro and con. in your desirable paper concerning Know Nothingism, and I am free to confess, as a subscriber, that I am satisfied your position is correct. If this is a free Government, let us be free—yes, let all men be free—universal freedom is my motto. I am a native-born Kentuckian, my father's mother was of Virginia, and he a revolutionary soldier, and

were it not for the man-fearing spirit, there would service you had rendered the Anti-Slavery cause, the State, whenever the same would be otherwise

P. S. Two years ago, when we first-commenced openly advocating the cause of universal Freedom, we were threatened with violence, and it was almost at the risk of our lives we did it; but, thanks be to God, the scene is changed; all and every person talk and discuss the subject openly and everywhere.

BOOTH AND RYECROFT. HUBBARD, TRUMBULL Co., OHIO,

Your several epistles of the 1st inst. I duly eceived, and observe that S. M. Booth and John Ryecroft have been fined and imprisoned, one in \$1,000, the latter in \$200.

Cannot the Free Democracy of the United States do something in this matter, and relieve them from paying this \$1,200, by raising the amount? If the Catholics of Ireland raised over £20,000, by what was termed the " Catholie rent," at a penny per week, to obtain and beend their rights during the struggle in the Dritish Parliament for Catholic Emancipation. the Free Democracy can raise this trifle. They can do it, and more. It should be \$5,000, so as to remunerate these men for their lost time. &c. If this idea meets your views, let us hear from you, stating how you think best to pro-ceed in the matter. In these hard times, it ing with it? Yours, respectfully,
A PROTESTANT IRISHMAN.

The Editors of the Independent, New York city, have already announced their willingness to receive and forward contributions in the case alluded to. Our correspondent will please send what he has to them .- Ed. Era.

MR. DOUGLAS WRONG-ILLINOIS RIGHT. PRINCETON, BUREAU Co., ILLINOIS,

March 7, 1855. In a recent number of your paper, speaking of a resolution introduced into the late Legisla-ture of Illinois, which resolution required colored persons to produce certificates of freedom before being allowed to travel on the cars, you ask, "Did the old dynasty ever do anything meaner?" Let me correct the evident misapprehenson of the Era, by stating that the rese lution referred to was introduced by a Nebraska Democrat, and it did not pass the House. No Republican or anti-Nebraska Whig or Democrat voted for it, at least so I recollect it.

It seems to be a question with Senator Doug las and with some rather nervous papers, wheth er the election of Mr. Trumbull is to be attributed to Anti-Slavery or to what is termed Know Nothingism. If the latter element exerted any influence in the Senatorial election, or in any other matter before the Legislature, I was ignorant of it. It is true, it might have been done and I not know it, but I think I was as favorably situated to know it as those a thousand miles off. We did not do all that could be desired in the cause of Freedom, but what we did do was and, to the best of my knowledge, a large nun weapons would be produced in court, and iden- tronage from you, because you dissent from the genuine. "Nec deus intersit, nisi nodus dei ber of these are now Know Nothings. But of scare up the ghost of Know Nothingism when there is no call for it. It would no doubt be very pleasant, or at least desirable, for him, if upon to vote for a Slavery Propagandist, the Senator Douglas could take home the "flattering unction" that it was not Anti-Slavery that defeated him. But he cannot escape in this the importance of such a paper in the Federal way. He will not be allowed to dodge the issue. city; and, as much as they approve of the new He must meet the friends of Freedom opposed to the Nebraska fraud, in the future great bat tle in this State. It is indeed possible that Know Nothingism defeated Shields; but if so, it was in the ranks of the unterrified Democracy, the fast

friends of Senator Douglas. On the whole, I think that the Era car comforted concerning Anti-Slavery in Illinois like all things in the New York Tribune; yet that it will still be loyal to the cause of Free OWEN LOVEJOY.

> A CLEAR FIELD AND FAIR FIGHT. HARMON, WASHINGTON Co., OHIO,

I see that our friend, George Orr, of Philaelphia, feels badly about your defending the let the Catholics and everybody else have a fair shake in this world. I am not willing to let any one be persecuted for opinion's sake : I say. give them and all a "clear field and fair fight. t appears to me that some of our good friends are doing the very thing they complain of the Catholics for. I go for "equal and exact justice to all," including the niggers.

D. Putnam, Jr.

A KNOW NOTHING. PAWTUCKET, R. I., March 5, 1855. I belong to the Know Nothing organization but I heartily endorse nearly all that you have written concerning them, as far as my informa tion is concerned. Go ahead in your bold ex positions of the tendencies of the organization and the editors of the Era and Tribune wil of truth and freedom, thus fearlessly thrown into their camp, have produced such fruits as

will annihilate their plans and purposes. A LOVER OF RIGHT. ANOTHER OF THE PROSCRIBED. LOCKPORT, March 7, 1855. Your course on Know Nothingism is right. Those papers that formerly were strong Anti-Anti-Slavery principles were rather of a mush-room growth. What consistency is there in columns. scendants, and at the same time proscribe Eu-ropeans? Wonder if the blood of the Pilgrim spectacle. Even look to their more minor of Fathers has been entirely wasted, or does so small a portion of it continue to trickle through of their own consciences. It is not that her population is ignorant of these facts, but relitious prejudice has blinded them : and although Wilson is elected Senator, and our Anti-Slavery brethren rejoice over it, yet one of two and if so, shape your course as it behooves things he will have to do-he must be Pro-Slaconverted to the Anti-Slavery cause as he was to the Baptist faith, (which I say without reproach,) he would have been a prominent candidate for the Presidency in the coming control of the country seat and the headquarters of the country seat secret order. All the other petty lodges look to the grand sachems of our village for direction when any difficult question is to be solvedsuch, for instance, as prescribing the necessary medicine from the drug shop at headquarters to all the disaffected. But with all this, our ticket was elected, except one officer, by hand-

Yours, for the human brotherhood, except ing no clime or color. AN IRISHMAN. COUNTER TESTIMONY

POTTSTOWN, MONTGOMERY Co., PA. Your friends and patrons in this region are, I think, much pleased with your views on the subject of the Know Nothing organization, and ery few, if any, of them, have countenanced

If you think proper, please insert the above, in answer to Charles T., in your paper of the lst of March. I am well acquainted with most of your subscribers, and know whereof I af-firm. Yours, P. GROWING WARM. HARVARD, MASS., Feb. 27, 1855. I have been a subscriber to and reader of

of Virginia, and he a revolutionary soldier, and fought for Freedom; and may I ever be found on the side of Freedom, (yes, universal Freedom.) I have procured some five or six subscribers for paper, until within the last few months. And,

we renewed our subscription, thinking that chargeable to the person arrested or claimed as although you might not see with us in regard to the American party, you would, after having Sec. 5. No per fully expressed your own views of it, at least see a fugitive slave shall be imprisoned in any jail the propriety of letting it alone. But, sir, when you undertake to insult your readers by filling having the care or control of any prison, and your columns with the Jesuitical lies of an avowed member of the Church of Rome-a part, if not all, of whose creed, as you know, or ought to know, is to lie to and deceive the rest of the world—and then say to your readers, as you did in your last number, "We were glad to see such in aray of evidence by an American Catholic," de., what are we to think? For one, I would vice or labor to any person or persons, with in ask, are you a member of that abominable and eceitful Church? Or do you take your readers to be so ignorant or stupid as to be imposed apon by such testimony? If the latter, let me than three nor more than five years in the State say, that, so far as I am acquainted with them, they are not only men of good common sense, but strong Anti-Slavery men, who (notwithstanding your insinuations) have taken no oaths

and are also as fully determined to resist its designs and encroachments. In conclusion, let me say, that although som of my remarks may seem severe, they are made with the kindest of feelings towards you. But I may be thought there could not be much done.

Let every man give what he can spare. I have not much to give; if it should be but the widfence of Rome. And if you feel it to be your not much to give; if it should be but the wid-ow's mite, who knows but there may be a bless-ing with it? Yours, respectfully,

fence of Rome. And if you feel it to be your duty to continue its defence by publishing in your columns the lying articles of Jesuits, in the form of Congressional speeches, I must bid you ome to the advance payment you have reeived from me for the Era, and request you to stop sending it. Yours, with respect,
WM. B. WILLARD.

We shall continue to do just as we always have done. Yours, immovably,

AN OLD SOLDIER'S OPINION. New York, Feb. 13, 1855. I cannot but repeat my gratification with our exposures, from time to time, of the priniples and measures of the Know Nothings. A nore thoroughly Anti-Protestant, Anti-Republican, Anti-American, Anti-Christian, and Anti-Abolition movement, could hardly have been devised. Yours, truly, WM. GOODELL.

CONFIDENCE IN FREE-SOILERS IMPAIRED. STEWARTSVILLE, WESTMORELAND Co., PA.

March 1, 1855. The gentleman known as "Sam" has large number of friends in this county, who racy last October. Antecedent to that elecion, the Old Line Democracy usually had from 1,800 to 2,100 majority; but, after hard fighting on the part of his friends, Bigler had the tremendous majority of thirty votes! while the county Know Nothing ticket was only from 100 to 500 of being elected. Anti-Slavery men in visits." I believe we gave Hale 120 votes ne thing I am certain: they did not leave the Anti-Slavery principles behind, when they en will decline doing any such damnable thing Indeed, I think by the time they read a few more numbers of the Organ and the Crusader they will turn their backs upon the thing.

I am no Know Nothing; I do not believe them. The seem to like Satan reforming si Their organization is no better than the Jesu its; and I am sorry that Anti-Slavery men who profess to believe that "all men are create free and equal," will uphold an organization that is avowedly designed to deprive an honest well-meaning class of men of the privilege of equality. An energetic old party man re marked in my hearing, the other day, that he had less confidence than ever in the Free-Soil ers; they would deprive honest white men o the right of suffrage, and place them upon an equality with blacks-for whom he thought hey have not as much good feeling as they pretend. And I thought he was near about correct-believing, as I do, that the genuin Anti-Slavery man pays no regard to color

LIMA, ALLEN Co., O., Feb. 23, 1855. Know Nothingism is now going up here, bu had the people light upon the subject, it would soon come down. We have two Republica papers in the county, but they are mum up e subject, except to occasionally praise the Know Nothings, or rather give favorable extracts from other papers. A. B. W.

> OVER CONFIDENT. Bellevue, Sandusky Co., Ohio,

February 28, 1855. As a friend I write you, laying complimen aside. I am a subscriber to the Era, which is have occasion to know, ere long, that the seeds | welcome weekly visiter to my house and desk. but you or me are wofully mistaken on som political points. You say that the new organi zation, Know Nothings, are pro-slavery, eve up to the Whigs and Democrats, or that they passed similar resolutions to the Baltimore plat-form, at their Cincinnati Convention. But, to be brief on the subject, I tell you that that is not the fact, but the reverse. I know a dele gate to that Convention, and what he knows Slavery, and are now dumb, or advocate the that I know concerning the Convention; and secret Order, only show to the world that their | you are harming the glorious cause of Freedom, by peddling the trash of outsiders in your \* For a moment, view the characters advocating the rights of Africans and their de- of any or all of the members elected through fices, such as Mayors, Aldermen, Justices of the Peace, and then show me one of their numthe veins of the Bay State population, that they ber that is pro-slavery, if you can find him, in forget that their fathers flew from their native land, to enjoy in the wilderness of America the the corn, that you are a smarter man than your privilege of worshipping God after the dictates | correspondent; and, while you are examining please keep tally and see if they are the me emperate, judicious, and thoroughgoing mer that have ever been elected in the same space of time, since you came on the stage of action Christian republican to do. They have r newspaper organ; and any paper that profess Yours, &c., JAMES F. SMITH.

> MICHIGAN PERSONAL LIBERTY BILL. BILL to protect the Rights and Liberties of the Inhab

The People of the State of Michigan enact: SEC. 1. That it shall be the duty of the Pro cuting Attorneys, within their respective cou ies, whenever any inhabitant of this State is arrested or claimed as a fugitive slave, on being nformed thereof, diligently and faithfully

use all lawful means to protect, defend, and pro

cure to be discharged, every such person so a

ested or claimed as a fugitive slave. Sec. 2. All persons so arrested and claime as fugitive slaves shall be entitled to all the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and tria

by jury. Sec. 3. If such writ of habeas corpus shal be sued out in vacation, and if, upon the hearing of the same, the person imprisoned, arrested, or claimed as a fugitive slave, shall not be discharged, such person shall be entitled to an appeal to the Circuit Court for the county which such hearing shall have been had, on furnishing such bail, and within such time as the officer granting the writ or hearing the case

shall judge reasonable or proper.

Sec. 4. The Court to which such appeal the Era. It has done much for the Anti-Slavery cause in Kentucky. We are going ahead.

Revolvers and bowie knives fall before a pure gospel, like snow before the sun. The free church in Kentucky is strengthened daily; and stream the subscribers in this place (all of whom are members of the gospel, like snow before the sun. The free church in Kentucky is strengthened daily; and shall, on application of either party to such provisions of this act and all the bounty-land laws heretofore passed by Congress shall be extended to Indians, in the same manuer and to the parties in the matter aforesaid; and the tax-the party to such proceedings, allow and direct a trial by jury, on all questions of fact in issue between the party to such proceedings, allow and direct a trial by jury, on all questions of fact in issue between the parties in the matter aforesaid; and the tax-the party to such proceedings, allow and direct a trial by jury, on all questions of this act and all the bounty-land laws heretofore passed by Congress shall be extended to Indians, in the same extent as if the said Indians had been white men.

The intention of the instrument and to the party to such proceedings, allow and direct a trial by jury, on all questions of fact in issue between the party to such proceedings, allow and direct a trial by jury, on all questions of the same extent as if the said Indians had been white men.

Sec. 5. No person so arrested or claimed as permitting the imprisonment of such alleged fugitive slave therein, shall be subjected to the payment of a fine of not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand dollars.

SEC. 6. Every person who shall falsely declare, represent, or pretend, that any free per-son entitled to freedom is a slave, or owes sertent to procure, or aid or assist in procuring, the forcible removal of such free person from this State as a slave, shall be imprisoned not less

Sec. 7. Every person who shall wrongfully and maliciously seize, or procure to be seized, any free person entitled to freedom, with intent or obligations that will in the least degree con-flict with their duties or actions as such; and a fine of one thousand dollars, and be imprire to have such person held in slavery, shall pay

are as strongly and conscientiously anti-Papal, oned five years in the State prison.

SEC. 8. In all cases arising under the provisions of sections seven and eight of this act, the truth of any declaration, representation, or pretence, that any person being or having been n this State, is or was a slave, or owes or did owe service or labor to any other person or persons, shall not be proved except by the tesmony of at least two credible witnesses, testifying to facts directly tending to establish the truth of such declaration, pretence, or representation, or by legal evidence equivalent thereto. SEC. 9. No declaration, pretence, or repre-

entation, that any person is or was an appren tice for a fixed term of years, or owes or did owe service merely as such apprentice for such fixed term, shall be deemed prohibited by this act; and no such declaration, pretence, or representation, that any person is or was such an apprentice for such fixed term, or owes or did owe service merely as such an apprentice for such fixed term, shall be liable to any penalty under this act. Sec. 10. All acts or parts of acts conflicting

with the provisions of this act are hereby re-

For the National Era.

THE DARKEY'S LAMENT. BY J. GOLDRICK.

I lived upon the Niger's banks, When I was but a child; To the rude life the Niggars lead,

Content and reconciled The white man came from land afar His great ship squared her snowy snils,

And west she bore away. He led me o'er the ocean wide,

Where stormy billows roll; Wild were the waves that swept his deck

But wilder swept my soul; He fetched me to his sunny home On the Mississippi— He sold me to his Uncle Sam,

Who made a slave of me

Great, glorious, and free! And doomed to Slavery!

Or hither on the wave, Before I reached America, This South's the land of tyranny.

Where hell's dread monarch reigns There's no soft spot in man's proud heart Where grows the sugar canes.

In heaven above proclaim, That Liberty in these green woods

Wethersfield, Conn.

BOUNTY LAND LAW to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States. Be it enacted by the Senate and House Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each of the urviving commissioned and non-commissioned mption from any such anti-republican and officers, musicians, and privates, whether spotic "institution." egulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who were regularly mustered into the service of the Inited States, and every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned, seaman, ordinary sea-man, marine, flotilla-man, clerk, and landsman, statement, for himself, at his leisure. n the navy, in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged since seventeen hundred and ninety, and each of the survivors of the militia, or volunteers, or State troops of any State or Territory, called into military service, and regularly mustered therein, and whose ser vices have been paid by the United States, shall e entitled to receive a certificate or warrant from the Department of the Interior for one

of those who have been so mustered into service and paid shall have received a certificate or warrant, he shall be entitled to a certificate or warrant for such quantity of land as will make, n the whole, with what he may have heretofore eceived, one hundred and sixty acres to each such person having served as aforesaid: Provided. The person so having been in service shall not receive said land warrant, if it shall appear the muster rolls of his regiment or corps hat he deserted or was dishonorably discharged from service. Provided, further, That the benefits of this section shall be held to extend to wagon-masters and teamsters who may have een employed, under the direction of compeent authority, in time of war, in the transportation of military stores and supplies. Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That is

undred and sixty acres of land; and where any

case of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant as aforesaid under this act, leaving a widow, or, if no widow, a minor child or children, such widow, or, if no widow, such minor child or children, shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land that such deceased person would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this act, if now living: Provided, That a subsequent marriage shall not impair the right of any such widow to such warrant, if she be a widow at the time of making her application: And provided, further, That those shall be considered minors who are so at the time this act shall take effect.

case shall any such certificate or warrant be it and intent " of the Constitution to be less in issued for any service less than fourteen days, except where the person shall actually have been | dead letter. engaged in battle, and unless the party claiming such certificate or warrant shall establish his on her right thereto by recorded evidence of said service.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That said certificates or warrants may be assigned, transferred, and located by the warrantees, their assignees, or their heirs-at-law, according to the provisions of existing laws regulating the assignment, transfer, and location of bounty-land war-

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That no warrant issued under the provisions of this act shall be located on any public lands, except such as shall at the time be subject to sale at either the minimum or lower graduated prices. Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the registers and receivers of the several land offices, shall be severally authorized to charge and be the only meaning the words will bear, and receive for their services in locating all warrants under the provisions of this act the same compensation or per centage to which they are enti-tled by law for sales of the public lands, for cash, at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That the officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary war, r their widows or minor children, shall be enti-

G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

cents a line for each subsequent one. Ten words constitute a line. Payment in advance

The following named persons are authorized Agents for the Era: J. A. Innis, Salem, Mass.; G. W. Light, Boston, Mass.; C. A. Wall, Wor-

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tled to the benefits of this act. SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That the penefits of this act shall be applied to and embrace those who served as volunteers at the in vasion of Plattsburg, in September, eighteen andred and fourteen; also at the battle o King's Mountain, in the Revolutionary war, and the battle of Nickojock against the confederated

savages of the South.
Sec. 10. And be it further enacted. That the rovisions of this act shall apply to the chap-

wars of the country,
Sec. 11. And be it further enacted. That the provisions of this act be applied to those who erved as volunteers at the attack on Lewistown, in Delaware, by the British fleet, in the war eighteen hundred and twelve—fifteen. Approved, March 3, 1855.

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THE LEGAL TENURE OF SLAVERY LETTER XXVI.

POSITION—(I.) "STRICT CONSTRUCTION —(2.) "SPIRIT AND INTENT"—(2.) RULE OF THE SU-

PREME COURT- INTILLA OF THESE FATAL TO

3. Modern jurisprudence has endeavored to

SLAVERY .- Concluded. To the Friends of American Liberty:

laborate a third rule of construction, a middle ground between the two preceding ones. It admits that the "intentions" of the parties must be ascertained, but it allows no search outside of the instrument itself, into history or tradition to prove their intentions.\* And instead of insisting, like the "strict-construction" theo ry, that every word, syllable, and letter, of the instrument must stand entire, whatever the discrepancy or self-contradiction may be, it disposes of such cases by bringing the obscure and doubtful into the light of the indisputable and certain, giving the latter its full exercise, whatever may become of the former. It exalts the declared objects of the instrument above its incidental details, and either construes or displaces them by it. It will allow no legal in strument to have a bad meaning, if it will possibly bear an innocent construction. Though it does not recognise the paramount authority of "self-evident truths," nor carry out the common law doctrine, that "statutes against fundamental morality are void," yet it insists that when statesmen and legislators undertake to work wickedness in drafting legal documents, they must not skulk behind ambiguous phrases and ingenious circumlocutions, so as to leave any possible chance of mistaking their meaning. If they mean to act the part of depreda tors upon their species, they must say so openly and aboveboard, so as to give fair notice of their intentions beforehand. Otherwise they must be content to let the courts construe their language in such a manner as to make patriots and honest men of them. The Supreme Court of the United States gives expression to this

we may presume, the prevailing ethics of our national jurisprudence, on this point: "Where rights are infringed, where fundamental principles are overthrown, where the general system of the laws is departed from, the legislative intention must be expressed with irresistible clearness, to induce a court of justice to suppose a design to effect such objects,

The courts, in other words, are not to over throw justice, and promote injustice; are not to condemn the innocent, and acquit the guilty; are not to subvert the liberties of their country nor enthrone despotism, unless the Constitu-tions and statutes they administer so plainly require this at their hands, by explicit language,

that they can put no other intelligible construction upon them! Now, I undertake to say, that the proper ap plication of either of these three theories (the the United States, will make it an Anti-Slavery instrument, in toto, without any compromises or guaranties in favor of Slavery, and plainly requiring the Federal Government to "guar anty to every State in this Union" entire ex-

The proof of this will appear, at every remaining step, in our discussions. A mere glance in this letter may suffice to put the readupon the track of testing the truth of the

1. Take up the Constitution and read it, care ally, from beginning to end, with the theory and rules of "strict construction" distinctly in your mind. Stick closely to the plain meaning of the words. Remember, you have nothing to do now with the pretence, whether true or false, that "the Union could not have been formed without a compromise." You are to know nothing of any "understandings," "intentions," or "compromises," not found expressly in the bond. You find no mention of slaves or of Slavery. You find nothing that describes slavery, except in the clauses that forbid it, "laws impairing the obligations of contracts, and deprivation "of liberty without due pro-cess of law." On the other hand, the prohibi ion of these, by the "strict construction" of the language, are prohibitions of Slavery. And the guaranty, "to every State in this Union" of "a republican form of Government" is a guaranty against Slavery, if you abide by the

proper meaning of the language. 2. Try, next, the "spirit and intent" theory. taking along with you the antecedent and concomitant historical facts, the action of the Continental Congress against Slavery, the " Declar ration of Independence," the Articles of Confederation, the Anti-Slavery sentiments and labors of the principal framers-Jay, Franklin, Hamilton, and others-Mr. Jefferson's notes on Vir ginia, the general sentiment of the South; the declarations of Madison, that the Convention would not allow the Constitution to recognise the possibility of a right to property in man, and of Patrick Henry, in the Convention for its ratification in Virginia, that the Constitution clearly gave Congress the power to abolish Stavery in the States. Take up the preamble of the Constitution, mark its declared objects and aims, observe the general scope and drift of the instrument. See whether, in the light of SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That in no all these, you can honestly make out "the spirfavor of Liberty, and against Slavery, than the

3. When you have tried the Constitution by the two preceeding theories, take up the third, and see how much you can change the result. Like "strict construction," it forbids your look ing into history or tradition for any "under standings," "intentions," or compromises, not found explicitly in the instrument itself. Like the spirit and intent" theory, it sends you to the indisputable and the explicit, for a clue wherewith to unravel the disputable and the dubious. It bids you decide doubtful or diffi cult provisions by the declared object and in tent. It forbids you to put any construction upon the language of the instrument, which should make it permit the infringement of inherent rights, or render it inconsistent with the general system of our institutions and laws, including the common law, unless the meaning unless they are expressed with "irresistible clearness." It charges you not to construe the Constitution of your country so as to fasten upon its founders the imputation of hypocrisy and impiety in their "solemn appeal to Heaven taken, and any Court to which a writ of habeas corpus, in behalf of any such person claimed or arrested as a fugitive slave is made returnable,

Sec. 7. And be it further exacted. That the